

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant thanks Examiners Macchiarolo and Williams for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on September 14, 2004. During the interview, the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection was withdrawn.

Claims 7-9 are all the claims pending in this application. Claim 7 has been amended.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohsawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,939,826) ("Ohsawa") in view of Haraga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,126,620) ("Haraga") and Jondrow (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,274). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 7 now recites, inter alia, "coating resin material *directly* over said front panel, said resin material including red, green and blue resins corresponding to red, green and blue color regions of said back panel, thereby forming a resin lens layer." Emphasis added. Neither Ohsawa nor Haraga, taken singularly or in combination, teach, suggest or disclose this limitation.

Ohsawa describes a plasma display system having a color filter 4 formed over a first front glass plate 3. A second front glass plate 6 with a microlens is formed over the color filter 4. See, e.g., Figure 2. The Patent Office analogizes the first glass plate of Ohsawa to Applicant's front panel, and the second glass plate of Ohsawa to Applicant's resin material. Office Action at page 3, paragraph 5. However, in Ohsawa, the second glass plate 6 is not formed "directly" over the first glass plate 3.

Haraga fails to remedy the deficiencies of Ohsawa. For example, Haraga relates to a display element having a colored condensing lens formed of glass (col. 10, lines 46-49), which is bonded to a front panel 2 via a transparent adhesive layer 37. See,

e.g., Figure 11. The system of Haraga is similar to the lens panel described in the "Description of the Related Art" of the present invention, which has serious disadvantages, such as: 1) "the display panel becomes heavier because of the attached member and that a long distance between the lens and the luminous position decreases the light-condensing angle, thus narrowing the angle of view." Page 2, lines 7-13. Notwithstanding the obvious disadvantages of the display element of Haraga, coating resin material is not formed directly over the front panel, as recited in claim 7.

Claim 7 further recites, inter alia, "pressing a molding tool against a front surface of said resin lens layer." The Patent Office avers that Jondrow teaches that "injection molding and compression molding are equivalent methods known in the molding art." Office Action page 4, paragraph 10. However, Jondrow does not mention that such molding processes are equivalents to pressing a molding tool against a front surface of a resin lens layer. In fact, Jondrow teaches away from using a molding tool, and specifically state "[t]he faceplate 82 and backplate 84 are formed by injection molding or compression molding plastic to a prescribed shape having prescribed features." Col. 6, lines 42-44. Thus, there is no teaching, suggestion or disclosure that injection and compression molding are equivalents to pressing a molding tool against a front surface of a resin lens layer.

Finally, there is no motivation for combining the Ohsawa, Haraga and Jondrow references. The Patent Office contends that "[o]ne would be motivated to manufacture Haraga's colored lenses of Oshawa's PDP ... [to] save manufacturing time and money ... [and to] allow for fixing the lenses to the front panel without any possible deviation in the positions of the filters or lenses (Office Action at page 4, paragraph 8)," and "[to] produce high quality surfaces (Office Action at page 5, paragraph 10)." This is speculation at best and hindsight at worst. The Patent Office has not stated any reason why a person skilled in the art would be motivated to modify the disclosure of Ohsawa with the disclosures of Haraga and Jondrow, and no reason is suggested anywhere in

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the prior art references. Clearly, the Patent Office has used prohibited hindsight to reconstruct the present invention, as such is improper under the law of obviousness.

In view thereof, independent claim 7 cannot be rendered obvious over the combination of the Ohsawa, Haraga and Jondrow references, and the §103 rejection of independent claim 7 should be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 8 and 9 depend on independent claim 7 and are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 7.

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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